

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM USLO PEKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1904

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG: A DECISION CONCERNING THE REMAINS?

REF: PEKING 1873

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT WOULD BE DONE WITH REMAINS OF CHAIRMAN MAO, MFA AMERICAS AND OCEANIA DEVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR WU FANEWU TOLD AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SEPT 23 THAT "ACCORDING TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING (OR: THE UNOFFICIAL WORD IS), THE REMAINS ARE TO BE PRESERVED."

2. SEVERAL EMBASSIES HAVE HAD HINTS FROM CHINESE STAFF MEMBERS THAT MAO'S REMAINS, LIKE HIS GLORY, IT WOULD BE EVER-

LASTING. WU IS HIGH RANKING ENOUGH, AND CAUTIOUS ENOUGH, THAT HIS COMMENT PROBABLY CAN BE TAKEN AS REFLECTING AN OFFICIAL DECISION NOT TO CREMATE THE REMAINS. CHINESE HAVE NOT SO FAR AS WE KNOW GIVEN FOREIGNERS AN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESITION ON WHICH DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN SPECULATING, NAMELY WHETHER THERE WILL BE MAUSLOLEUM AND IF SO WHERE WILL IT BE BUILT.

3. ANOTHER, POSSIBLY PERTINENT MORTUARY ITEM. AUSTRALIANS RECENTLY PICKED UP A STORY IN SHANGHAI THAT A SHANGHAI GLASS FACTORY, UPON HEARING OF
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PREMIER CHOU'S DEATH LAST JANUARY, IMMEDIATELY CABLED

TO PEKING THAT IT HAD THE CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE A
HERMETICALLY SEALED CASKET SHOULD THE CENTER DECIDE TO
EMBALM CHOU.
GATES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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